There may be more important resolutions which may be more conducive to the good of the people and which may according to the ballot order come only later.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

I do not think there is anything in the rules in the way of what I have said.

President.—There is a ballot order now showing in what order the resolutions should be taken up, and in so much as they do not require fresh notices, these resolutions will not lapse. The resolutions which come up hereafter will likewise be ballotted, but not those in regard to which a certain order has been obtained. They will first be taken up in order at the next meeting and exhausted before the fresh ones are tabled.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

What I submit is that the rule is for the discussion of the resolutions which have already been ballotted in the previous meeting. They are again to be ballotted, because members are bound to send in these resolutions two weeks before the meeting of the Council.

President.—If admitted before two weeks, they are entitled to be ballotted according to the rule in Standing Order 6, clause (2), but not the resolutions which have already been ballotted.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Does it expressly say that all previous resolutions should be ballotted for the next meeting? The next meeting is a continuous meeting like this. To-morrow we have a meeting. It is only an adjournment of the meeting that we have next. If it is a new session, I can understand it. But this is the same session. The rule also refers to a meeting. That question does not arise here. In order to avoid further confusion at the next meeting, it may be decided one way or the other.

President.—Now that you have brought it to my notice, I shall again consider that matter. Now, it is time to move the resolution standing in the name of Mr. Mathew.

Representation for the Council on Committees.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

Sir, I rise to move the following resolution:—

"This Council recommends to the Government to give representation to the elected members of the Legislative Council, as far as possible, on all Committees appointed by the Government".

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In commending this resolution to the acceptance of this House, I desire to recall the words of His Highness expressed at the inaugural session of the Legislative Council, that it is the earnest desire of His Highness to associate the people with the Government of the State. These words are pregnant with meaning. "Associating the people with the Government of the State" means the laying of the corner stone of Constitutional Government, and as His Highness was very much pleased to do this, it is the duty of us, both official and non-official members and also the Diwan-President, to begin to construct, as far as it lies within its powers, representative institutions worthy of the high culture, civilization and enlightenment of the people of our State.

We have been very proud to say that the Cochin State in point of literacy is far ahead of British India and almost all Native States. The votes recorded at the election of the Legislative Council will prove that in political consciousness also, we stand ahead of those in British India. At the election to the Madras Legislative Council in 1923, the percentage of votes polled to total number of electors in contested constituencies is only 36·3, and a comparison of this with that of our Legislative Council election will show that our percentage is almost double of that of the other. But, in spite of this, we are behind British India in political reform. Our endeavour should, therefore, be to make this Council a really useful and popular institution. The Government also should co-operate with us in this endeavour. It is the duty of the Government to take this Council into its confidence and to supply correct facts and figures to the members of the Council and give them opportunities to understand the view point of the officials and of the Government by appointing them also as members of the various Committees constituted by the Government.

As has been expressed by His Highness, the representatives of the people are here to co-operate with the Government with a view to promote the happiness and prosperity of all classes of people, and to achieve this, there must be mutual trust and sympathy between the officials and non-official members. Further, there should be no room for creating misunderstanding between the officials and the representatives of the people. Mutual discussion will tend to remove all misunderstandings and create cordial relationship. We meet in the Council Hall only a few days in the year and to the Council meeting most of us come with preconceived and almost settled notions and ideas. If the non-official members are afforded

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timely opportunities to discuss important matters with official members outside the Council Hall also, it will tend to create mutual understanding and co-operation.

There is another reason for moving this resolution. On many Committees appointed by Government, no adequate representation is given to the people's representatives. The reason perhaps is that, when those Committees were appointed, there was no Legislative Council in existence. But the situation has now completely changed, and it is only quite reasonable, therefore, to request the Government to give representation to the elected members of this Council on Committees appointed by the Government.

I do not find any reason for the Government to oppose this resolution, which is intended for bringing about better understanding and co-operation between official and non-official members of this House. It does not say that all non-officials on Committees appointed by the Government must be the elected representatives of the people in the Council. So the freedom of the Government to appoint non-officials from outside the members of this Council on its Committees is not taken away. Again, there is the saving clause "as far as possible", and this will show that our purpose is not to throw the Government into unnecessary difficulties and troubles. We have not yet lost complete confidence in the good sense of the Government, and although the saving clause "as far as possible" is included in the resolution, we believe the Government will act as if there is no such saving clause in the resolution.

Sir, it is the desire of our Gracious Highness that the official and non-official members should work in complete unison, with mutual trust, sympathy and co-operation, and as this resolution is intended to fulfil the desire of His Highness, I request the Government Members also to support the resolution and to show by example that they are quite ready to co-operate with the non-official members.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to bring to the attention of the Government that the elected representatives of the people should be appointed not only on Committees appointed by Government, but they should be sent to represent the Government and people on the Railway Advisory Boards, the Port Trust Board, and such other Committees on which there are Government representatives?

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

Sir, I second the resolution. Since it is an *ex-parte* resolution, I do not want to make a long speech.

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Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

I support the resolution for two reasons, firstly because I know that the Government officials have got full tight work, and therefore, to give them an additional work would be binding their hands.

President.—Do you want to remove them?

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

Not exactly to remove them. Because, with the notice of 15 days for resolutions and 12 days for the questions, our official members have not been able to make the necessary preparations for the answering of the same. That shows the amount of work they have got.

President.—It might be a question of want of time, not tight work.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

That is exactly what I submitted.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

Especially when the statistics of a decade are called for (*Laughter*).

Mr. M. K. RAMAN,

Even for this purpose they do not find time. To do any other work in addition to that, they have obviously no time.

The second reason I assign is that we are the elected representatives of the people.

President.—Nobody disputes that, Mr. Raman. (*Continued laughter.*)

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

If, in all Committees, as far as possible, non-officials are appointed, probably that will give greater confidence to the people. We are more in touch with the ordinary common people, but I do not say that the Government officials are not.

President.—But there is no conflict between the Government officials and the representatives of the people. No. There is nothing whatsoever.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

For these reasons, I beg to support the resolution.

President.—If nobody wishes to speak, I shall put the motion to vote.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

If Government is accepting the resolution, there is no necessity to oppose the resolution. It need not be put to the vote.

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Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Sir, I am glad to say that Government can find no objection to the resolution as it is and to the principle underlying it. The answer given on Monday morning to question No. 25 would show that Government have appointed not less than 18 Committees during the last six years. A perusal of the personnel of these Committees will clearly indicate how solicitous Government have all along been to associate non-official opinion in their deliberations. They have given a really fair representation to non-officials in almost all the Committees and Boards that have come into existence either through their initiative or after their approval. This policy dates back even to an earlier period, as is evident from the Landlord and Tenant Committee appointed in 1083. Even in the Committee appointed after the inauguration of the Legislative Council, viz., the Finance Committee, Government have recognised the importance of non-official participation in official deliberations, and have accordingly reserved 3 seats for the non-official members of this Council. Government have thus all along been very considerate towards hon-official opinion, and have permitted officials and non-officials to sit side by side for the consideration of all important questions. The members of this Council as the chosen representatives of the people have always the first claim to be represented on these Committees. (*Hear, hear.*) Government have therefore no objection to accept the principle of the resolution, and will be glad to give representation to the elected members of this Council, as far as possible, in the Committees that may, in future, be appointed by Government.

President.—So there is no opposition. The resolution need not be put to votes. The resolution is carried.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

"Accepted" would be the better word.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

You cannot say it is accepted. It is a resolution of the House, and it is accepted by the whole House.

President.—So I say the resolution is unanimously carried.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

And if the Government *accepts*, it is well and good.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

Sir, I had sent some amendments to the Standing Order They are not in the agenda.

President.—I have ruled that it may be moved by way of motions.

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Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

I too had sent in certain motions.

President.—I had to examine the procedure, and the thing was left at that stage, as the meetings commenced.

Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON.

When the President has passed his decision, it is to be in the ballot. So it will be placed at the next meeting, if admitted by the President.

President.—Well, I will look into that to-morrow. There is no ballotting for them. The President will fix a day convenient for the work, and then matters would be considered. Well, I will tell you about this, to-morrow.

The Council was then adjourned till 11-30 a. m. the next day.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,

Secretary to the Council.

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